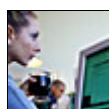


Summary

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State Comparison

Includes: **Summary of statistical indicators**



Population

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**



Health and Safety

Includes: **Presence of selected safety precautions and tenure type, Emergency Plan, by difficulty in evacuating in an emergency, Most recent emergencies in the last two years, Public hospital admission and emergency patients, Timeliness of elective surgery**



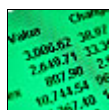
Roads

Includes: **Condition of VicRoads network, Road traffic fatalities and injuries**



Work and Income

Includes: **Civilian Labour Force by region, Employed persons by industry, Employed persons by occupation, Part-time workers, Duration of unemployment, Average weekly earnings**



State Final Demand

Includes: **State Final Demand**



Prices Indexes

Includes: **Consumer Price Index, House Price Indexes**



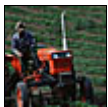
Construction

Includes: **Building Approvals, Engineering Construction Activity**



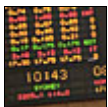
Tourism

Includes: **Tourist Accommodation**



Agriculture

Includes: **Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production**



Trade

Includes: **Balance of Trade, Trade by Commodity, Major Trading Partners**



Environment

Includes: **Air quality, Water resources**

Main Features

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

September 2008

Release Date

21 November 2008

NOTE

This publication contains a feature article entitled **Adult Literacy and Life Skills**. A list of all previous feature articles published is contained in the Appendix of the PDF version of this publication.

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Due to data unavailability, the 'Unemployment Rate Estimates, by Local Government Area' table, previously published in the work and income chapter, has been omitted from this issue.

As a result of changes to reporting requirements, road information from VicRoads is now presented in only two categories: Arterials and Freeways. Consequently, the 'Condition of Main Roads' table in the roads chapter has been replaced with a new table, 'Condition of VicRoads Network' (Table 5.1).

For this issue, three new tables collected by the ABS in the Household Preparedness for Emergencies survey, 'Presence of Selected Safety Precautions and Tenure Type', 'Emergency Plan, by Difficulty in Evacuating in an Emergency' and 'Most Recent Emergencies in the Last Two Years' have been added to the health and safety chapter.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 23 July 2008.

Explanatory Notes in the form found in other ABS publications are not included in **State and Regional Indicators, Victoria**. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

Users are advised that small area estimates presented in this publication should be used with caution.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Pam Boulton on Melbourne (03) 9615 7880.

About this Release

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (SRIV) is a quarterly publication that contains recently released statistical information about the whole of Victoria. Data is sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures according to a triple bottom line of economic, social and environment elements.

Most chapters contain a mix of tables, charts and commentary, to provide a basic analysis of recent movements in key economic, social and environmental data. Data is presented for varying geographic classifications, including, Victoria; Melbourne and the Balance of Victoria; down to Local Government Area for some series. The aim of the publication is to provide a picture of the situation of Victoria and enable comparison, both over time and between regions.

Core data, such as Estimated Resident Population, State Final Demand, Labour Force Statistics, Price Indexes, Building Approvals, Air Quality, and Water Storage Volumes is complemented by periodic annual data including the Condition of VicRoads Network, Recorded Crime Offences, Life Expectancy at Birth, Government Owned Housing Stock and others.

As the information is sourced from a wide variety of collections, care needs to be taken when analysing the data as time periods, definitions, methodologies, scope and coverage may differ from table to table. Advice is provided in the publication on such matters.

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State Comparison

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STATE COMPARISON

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS

This chapter summarises the key Victorian statistical indicators and compares them with the same statistical indicators of other states and Australia.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Summary of Statistical Indicators (file size 29kB).

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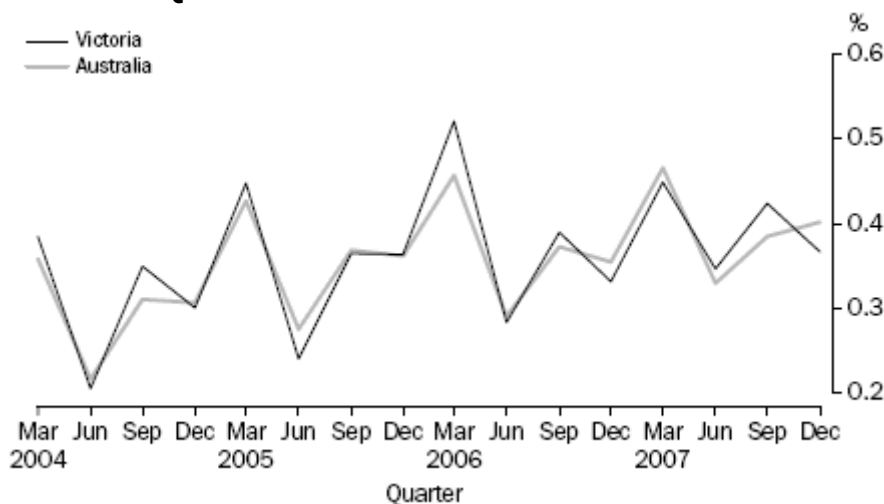
ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

Victoria's estimated resident population (ERP) at the end of any given period is the estimated population at the beginning of the period plus the sum of three components: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration.

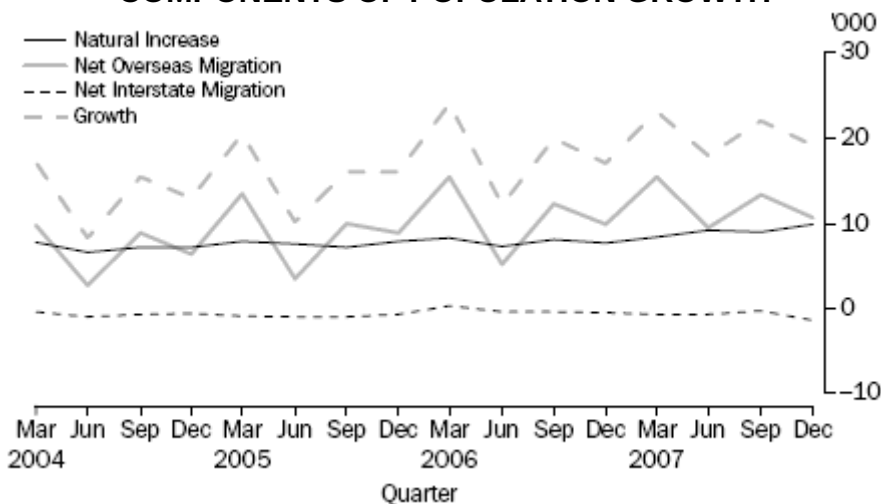
In December quarter 2007, Victoria's ERP grew by 19,200 persons or 0.37% while over the same quarter, Australia's ERP grew by 0.40% or 84,700 persons.

The largest contribution to Victoria's population growth in December quarter 2007 came from net overseas migration (10,700 persons) followed by natural increase (9,900 persons). The growth in these two components was partially offset by a loss of 1,400 people through net interstate migration. Victoria has experienced a net loss of people to other states in eighteen of the last nineteen quarters with the exception of March quarter 2006 where its population gained 300 people through net interstate migration.

QUARTERLY POPULATION GROWTH



COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: [1367.2, Estimated Resident Population and](#)

Health and Safety

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Household Preparedness for Emergencies
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Household Preparedness for Emergencies

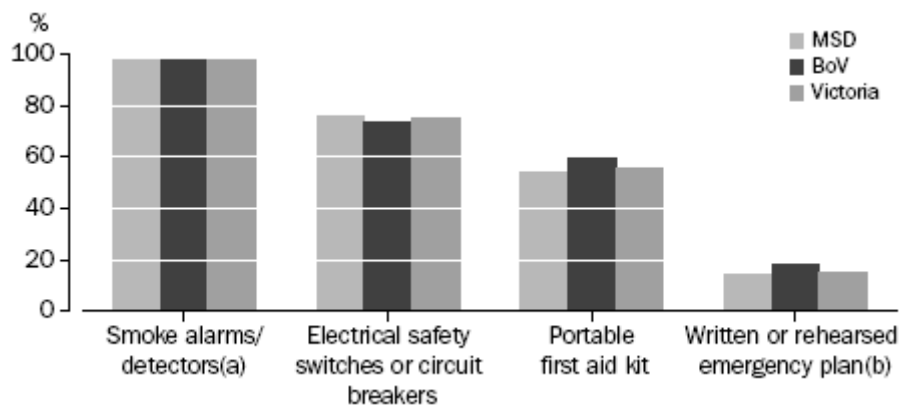
[Contents >> Health and Safety >> Household Preparedness for Emergencies](#)

HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCIES

Smoke alarms or detectors installed in homes were found to be the most common safety precaution taken by households in Victoria with 97.2% of homes having a smoke alarm installed. The high proportion of Victorian homes with smoke alarms installed is largely attributed to the mandatory requirement of homes, both new and old, to have smoke alarms installed.

Electrical safety switches or circuit breakers were found to be the second most common safety precaution (75.0%) taken by Victorian households with 75.6% of homes in MSD and 73.3% of homes in BoV having electrical safety switches or circuit breakers installed. This is due to the mandatory requirement of all new homes and existing homes undergoing renovation or rewiring work in Victoria to have safety switches installed.

PRESENCE OF SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: Household Estimation - October 2007



Portable first aid kits, which fall outside Victoria's legislated safety precautions, were found in 60.4% of homes in BoV and 53.9% of homes in MSD. Another safety measure falling outside legislated safety precautions in Victoria was first aid qualification, with only 32.6% homes in BoV and 28.1% homes in MSD having a household member in possession of current first aid qualifications.

In the two years prior to October 2007, 7.5% of households in Victoria had experienced an emergency. Dissecting emergencies by MSR revealed that 6.7% households in MSD and 9.3% households in BoV had experienced emergencies over this period. Storm, wind and hail were the most common causes of emergencies, reported by 3.4% of all households in Victoria.

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Presence of Selected Safety Precautions and Tenure Type: Household Estimation \(file size 24kB\).](#)

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Emergency Plan, By Difficulty in Evacuating in an Emergency: Household Estimation \(file size 22kB\).](#)

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Most Recent Emergencies in the Last Two Years: Household Estimation \(file size 25kB\).](#)

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HOSPITAL

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Public Hospital Admission and Emergency Patients \(file size 24kB\).](#)

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Timeliness of Elective Surgery \(file size 30kB\).](#)

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Roads

ROADS

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Road Condition

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ROAD CONDITION

Measures of road condition include roughness, rutting and cracking. Roughness less than 4.2 IRI is considered acceptable for non-metropolitan roads, according to IRI (International Roughness Index).

Local Government Areas outside Melbourne with the highest percentages of rough main roads in 2006-07 were Yarriambiack (17.7%), West Wimmera (15.9%) and Queenscliffe (15.5%). The lowest percentages were found in Mildura (2.5%), Glenelg (3.1%) and Towong (3.3%).

With lower average travel speeds in urban areas, roughness less than 5.3 IRI is considered acceptable for metropolitan roads. Local Government Areas within Melbourne with the highest percentages of rough main roads in 2006-07 were Yarra (8.0%), Maribyrnong (7.0%) and Stonnington (6.8%). The lowest percentages were in Melton, Casey (0.6% each) and Frankston (1.6%).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Condition of VicRoads Network, By Local Government Area (file size 34kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Road Traffic Fatalities and Injuries, By Local Government Area (file size 63kB).

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WORK AND INCOME

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- Average Weekly Earnings

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Civilian labour force by region

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CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE BY REGION

Between June 2007 and June 2008, the Victorian labour force grew by 54,400 people (2.0%). During this period, the number of employed persons rose by 52,600 (2.0%) and the number of unemployed persons rose by 1,700 (1.4%). Over the same period, the Victorian unemployment rate remained at 4.4%.

Over this period the labour force grew by 52,700 persons or 2.7% in the Melbourne Major Statistical Region and by 1,800 persons or 0.2% in the Balance of Victoria MSR. The proportion of employed persons who worked full-time decreased from 71.5% to 69.2% in the Melbourne MSR and from 68.0% to 67.4% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

The number of unemployed people increased by 3,400 (4.0%) in the Melbourne MSR and decreased by 1,700 (-5.0%) in Balance of Victoria MSR between June 2007 and June 2008. The unemployment rate increased from 4.3% to 4.4% in the Melbourne MSR and decreased from 4.7% to 4.5% in the Balance of Victoria MSR. The labour force participation rate increased in the Melbourne MSR from 65.0% to 65.6% and decreased in Balance of Victoria MSR from 63.8% to 62.8%.

Within the Balance of Victoria, the Barwon-Western District statistical region experienced the largest increase in employment (11,000 persons), followed by the All Gippsland statistical region (5,800 persons). The Goulburn-Ovens-Murray statistical region recorded the largest fall in employment (-9,500 persons), followed by the Loddon-Mallee and Central Highlands-Wimmera statistical regions (-3,200 persons and -700 persons respectively).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: [1367.2 Civilian Labour Force, By Region](#)
(file size 50kB)

Employed Persons by Industry

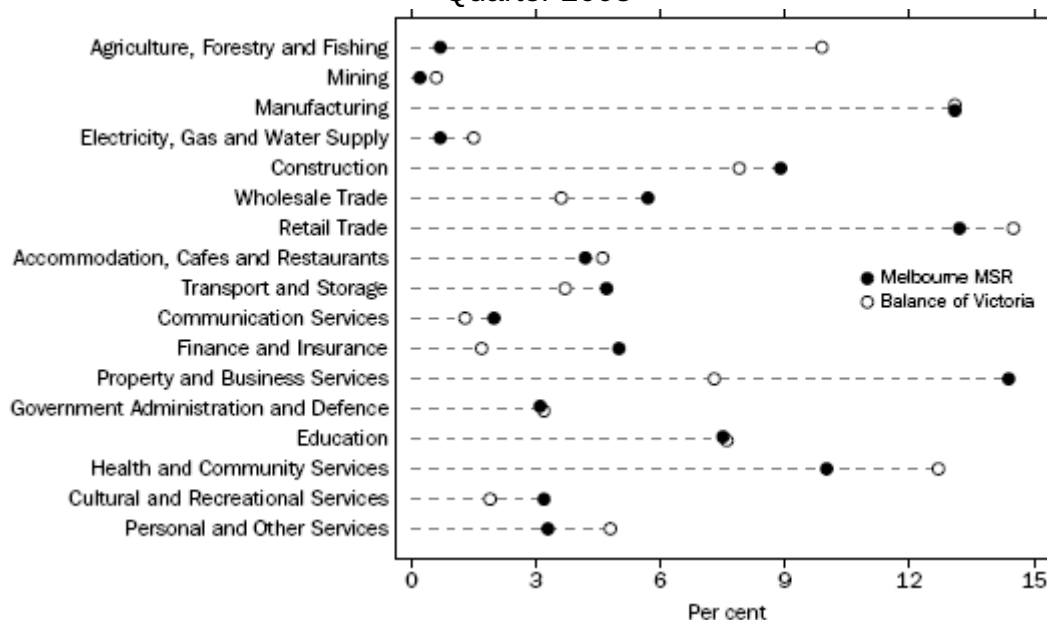
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EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

In May quarter 2008, the largest proportion of persons employed in the Melbourne MSR were in Property and Business Services (14.4%), Retail Trade (13.2%) and Manufacturing (13.1%).

In the Balance of Victoria, the biggest employers were Retail Trade (14.5%), Manufacturing (13.1%), and Health and Community Services (12.7%).

EMPLOYED PERSONS, By Industry, Melbourne MSR and Balance of Victoria - May Quarter 2008



In Victoria, the Construction and Transport and Storage industries had the highest proportion of total males employed (88.8% and 78.0% respectively), whilst the highest proportion of total females employed were in Health and Community Services and Education (78.5% and 71.0% respectively).

In terms of full-time employment, Construction accounted for the highest proportion of males employed in Victoria (95.5%), and Health and Community Services accounted for the highest proportion of full-time females employed (68.4%). In terms of part-time employment, Transport and Storage accounted for the largest proportion of males employed (65.5%), and Health and Community Services the largest proportion of females employed (90.7%).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: [1367.2 Employed Persons, By Industry and Major Statistical Region - May Quarter 2008](#) (file size 55kB).

Employed Persons by Occupation

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EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

In May quarter 2008, there were approximately 1,838,800 persons employed full-time in Victoria. The Melbourne MSR accounted for 1,365,800 (74.3%) of total full-time employed persons and the Balance of Victoria MSR, 473,000 persons (25.7%).

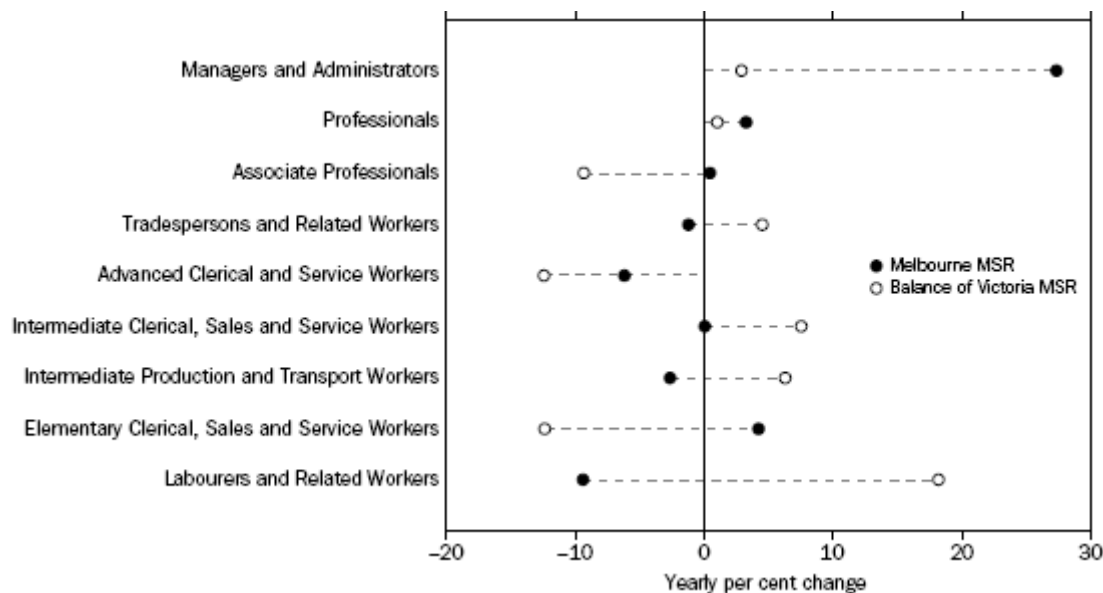
In the Melbourne MSR over half of full-time and part-time workers were employed in three occupational categories: Professionals (22.9%), Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (16.6%) and Associate Professionals (12.4%). In the Balance of Victoria, Tradespersons and Related Workers was the predominant group of workers (15.1%), followed closely by Professionals (15.0%) and Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (14.9%).

Dissecting occupation by gender reveals that in the Melbourne MSR the three most predominant occupations for female employees were Professionals, Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers, and Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (26.2%, 26.2% and 13.3% respectively). For male employees, the three most predominant occupations were Professionals, Tradespersons and Related Workers, and Associate Professionals (20.2%, 18.3% and 13.4% respectively). In comparison, the proportion of female employees working as Professionals in Balance of Victoria was slightly lower (20.8%) and significantly lower for male employees (10.3%). The predominant occupation for females in Balance of Victoria was Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (26.1%), while male employees tended to work as Tradespersons and Related Workers (24.4%), Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (15.9%), and Managers and Administrators (14.5%).

Full-time workers in the Melbourne MSR worked mainly as Professionals (24.7%), Associate Professionals (14.4%), Tradespersons and Related Workers (14.1%) and Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (13.6%). In the Balance of Victoria, the three most predominant occupational groups working on a full-time basis were Tradespersons and Related Workers (19.6%), Professionals (15.4%), and Managers and Administrators (13.2%).

In terms of part-time workers in the Melbourne MSR, three occupational groups comprised 63.5% of the total: Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (23.8%), Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (21.1%) and Professionals (18.7%). Part-time workers in Balance of Victoria tended to concentrate predominantly in the following occupations: Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (22.0%), Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (17.6%), and Labourers and Related Workers (16.3%).

EMPLOYED PERSONS, By Occupation, Melbourne MSR and Balance of Victoria - May Quarter 2008



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Employed Persons, By Occupation and Major Statistical Region - May Quarter 2008 (file size 28kB).

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Part-time Workers

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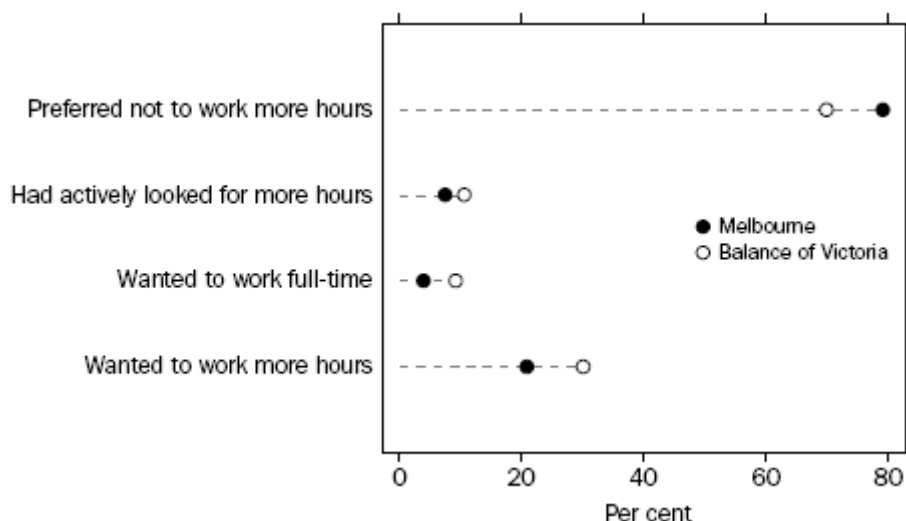
PART-TIME WORKERS

In May quarter 2008, there were 578,700 part-time workers in the Melbourne MSR. From May quarter 2007 to May quarter 2008, total part-time workers increased by 39,800 persons (7.4%) in the Melbourne MSR.

In May quarter 2008, females accounted for the majority of part-time workers (68.3%) in the Melbourne MSR. Most part-time workers (79.1%) preferred not to work more hours, and this was more common amongst females (80.5%) than males (76.0%).

In the Balance of Victoria, the total number of part-time workers in May quarter 2008 was 223,800, an increase of 11,400 persons (5.4%) since May quarter 2007. The majority of these part-time workers (69.9%) preferred not to work more hours. Again this response was more prevalent amongst females (74.4%) than males (58.3%).

PART-TIME WORKER'S INTENTION - May Quarter 2008



[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Part Time Workers, By Sex, Melbourne \(file size 23kB\).](#)

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Part Time Workers, By Sex, Balance of Victoria \(file size 23kB\).](#)

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Duration of Unemployment

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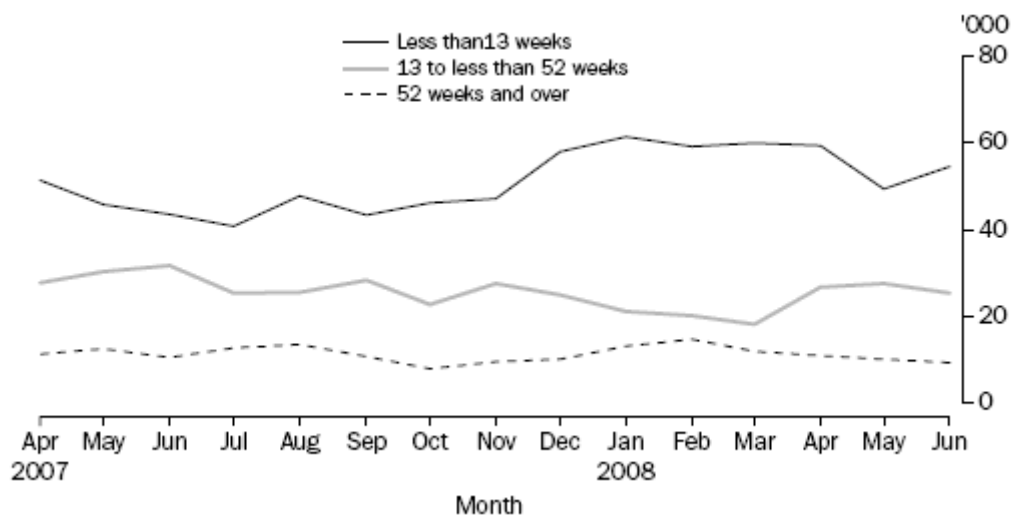
DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Between June 2007 and June 2008, the number of persons unemployed in the short term (for less than 13 weeks) increased by 25.5% in the Melbourne MSR and by 7.4% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

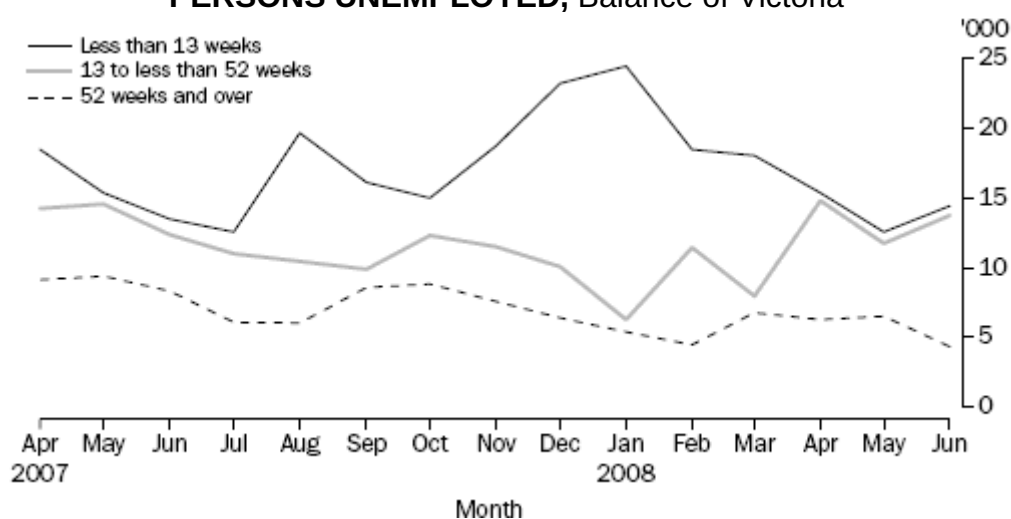
Over the same period, the number of medium term unemployed (13 to less than 52 weeks) decreased by 20.1% in the Melbourne MSR and increased by 10.5% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

The number of long term unemployed (those unemployed for 52 weeks or more) decreased by 12.1% in the Melbourne MSR and by 48.2% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

PERSONS UNEMPLOYED, Melbourne



PERSONS UNEMPLOYED, Balance of Victoria



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Duration of Unemployment, By Sex and Major Statistical Region (file size 42kB).

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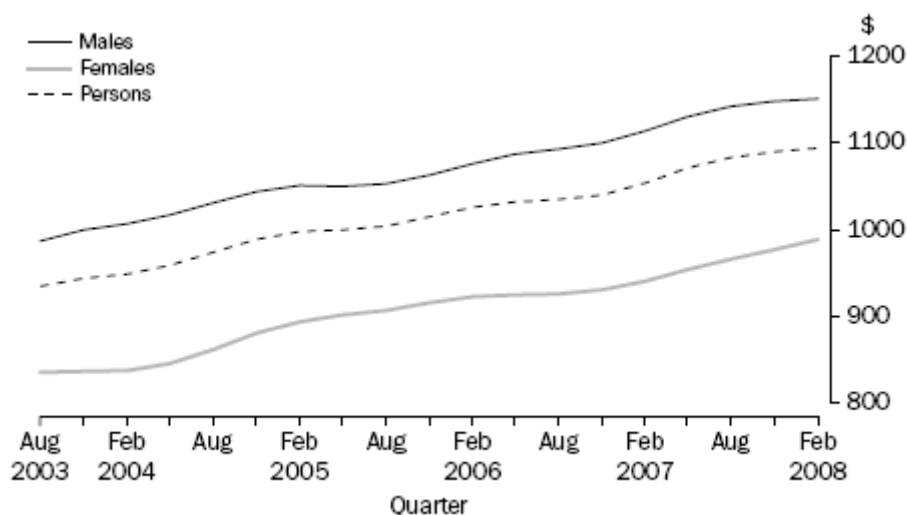
Average Weekly Earnings

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AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

In February quarter 2008, the trend estimate of full-time adult average weekly ordinary time earnings in Victoria was \$1,093.3, an increase of 3.8% from February quarter 2007. Over the same period, trend adult male full-time ordinary time earnings increased by 3.3%, compared to 5.1% for adult female earnings.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, Full-time Adult Ordinary Time



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Average Weekly Earnings of Employees, By Sex, Victoria: All series (file size 24kB).

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STATE FINAL DEMAND

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STATE FINAL DEMAND

State final demand measures the total value of goods and services that are sold in a state to buyers who wish to either consume them or retain them in the form of capital assets. It excludes sales made to buyers who use them as inputs to a production activity, export sales and sales that lead to accumulation of inventories.

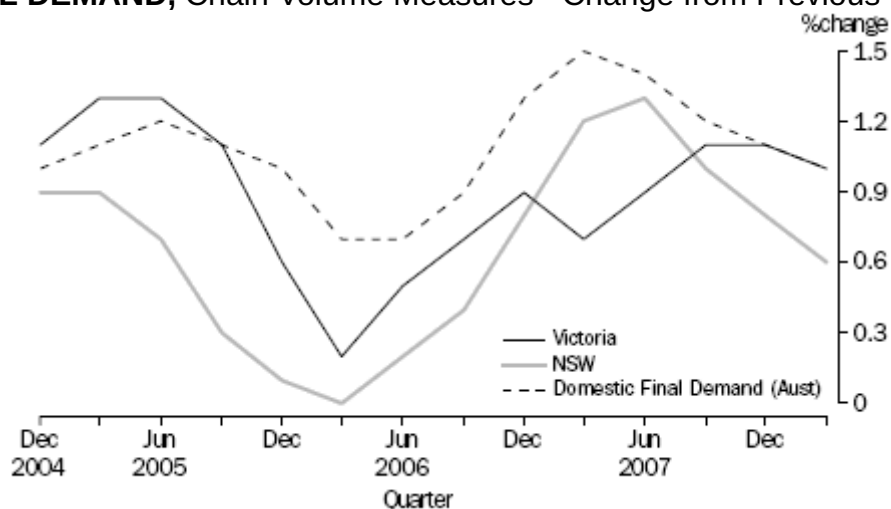
Measures of state final demand make no distinction between demand that is met by goods and services produced within the state in question, by supplies sourced from another state, or from overseas. State final demand is therefore not a measure of the value of production activity occurring within a state.

Note: As of 20 November 2006, the Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised. For the purpose of ABS statistics this change from public to private sector was effective from March quarter 2007. The classification of Telstra has changed from public sector non-financial corporation to private sector non-financial corporation from the March quarter 2007. There is a trend break from March quarter 2007 in a number of series related to the privatisation of Telstra. As a result no trend estimates are published for these series. For more information please see **Information Paper: Treatment of Telstra in ABS statistics** (cat. no. 8102.0) released 26 February 2007.

For the March quarter 2008, the trend estimate for Victorian final demand, in volume terms, was \$64,370m, an increase of 1.0% on the December quarter 2007. This was above the trend growth for New South Wales (0.6%) and equal to the Australian trend growth (1.0% domestic final demand) over the same period.

Household final consumption expenditure is the single largest component of state final demand and accounted for 58.7% of the trend volume estimate of state final demand in March quarter 2008, an increase of 1.3% on the December quarter 2007. The other main contributors were private gross fixed capital formation (22.3% of trend state final demand) and government final consumption expenditure (16.5%).

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain Volume Measures - Change from Previous Quarter: Trend



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 State Final Demand: Seasonally Adjusted and Trend (file size 34kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 State Final Demand: Original (file size 24kB).

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Consumer Price Index

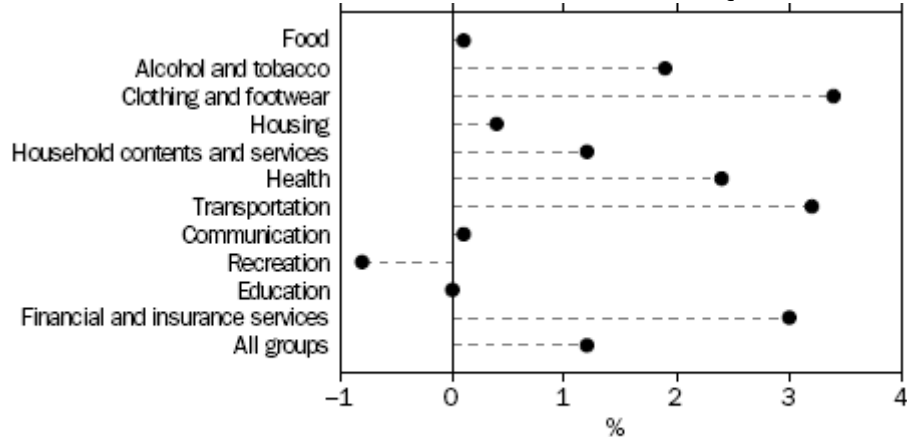
Contents >> Price Indexes >> Consumer Price Index

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Between March quarter 2008 and June quarter 2008, the all-groups CPI for Melbourne rose by 1.2%. The groups which recorded the largest increases were Clothing and footwear (3.4%), Transportation (3.2%), and Financial and insurance services (3.0%). The only group which recorded a decrease was Recreation (-0.8%).

Between June quarter 2007 and June quarter 2008, the all-groups CPI for Melbourne rose by 4.4%. The CPI all-groups weighted average for the eight capital cities rose by 4.5% over the same period. The biggest yearly increases for Melbourne occurred in Financial and insurance services (10.1%), Transportation (7.0%) and Housing (6.0%). The groups which recorded a decrease for the year were Clothing and footwear (-1.5%) and Household contents and services (-0.6%).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Melbourne - June Quarter 2008



(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.
(b) Base: June quarter 2005 = 100.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Consumer Price Index, By Group, Melbourne (file size 24kB).

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House Price Indexes

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HOUSE PRICE INDEXES

The price index for established houses covers transactions in detached residential dwellings on their own block of land regardless of age (i.e. including new houses sold as a house/land package as well as second-hand houses). Price changes therefore relate to changes in the total price of dwelling and land.

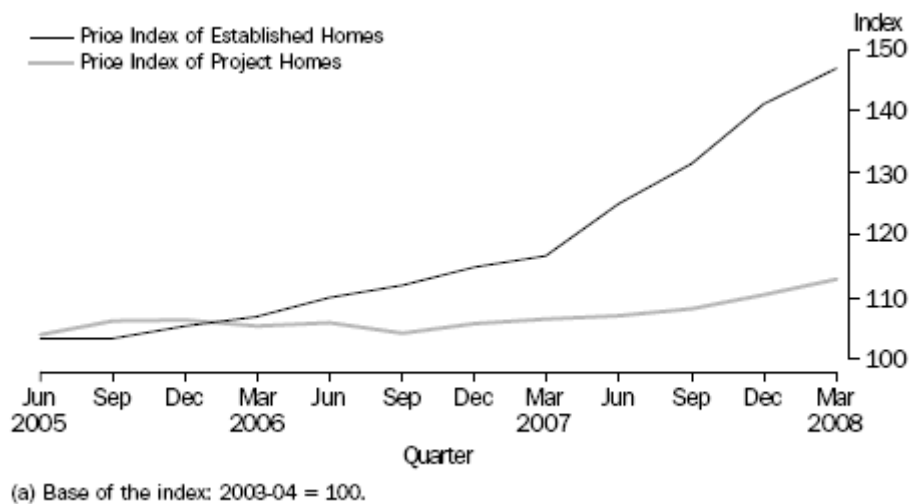
Project homes are dwellings available for construction on an existing block of land. Price changes relate only to the cost of constructing the dwelling (excluding land).

September quarter 2005 saw the introduction of a new methodology for compiling the established house price index. A detailed discussion of the new methodology is provided in **Information Paper: Renovating the Established House Price Index** (cat. no. 6417.0) released on 30 November 2005. The new established house price index commenced from March quarter 2002 and has a reference base of 2003-04 = 100.0. A new weighting pattern for the project home price index was introduced in September quarter 2005 (see Explanatory Notes to cat. no. 6416.0).

The price of project homes in Melbourne rose by 2.3% during March quarter 2008. Preliminary estimates show the price of established homes has risen by 4.1% in Melbourne over the same period. These followed a rise of 2.0% in project homes and a rise of 7.3% in established homes during the previous quarter. Preliminary estimates of the weighted average of the eight capital cities showed a rise of 1.1% in established house prices and 1.8% in project house prices in March quarter 2008.

From the March quarter 2007 to March quarter 2008, established home prices in Melbourne rose by 25.9% while project home prices rose by 6.0%.

HOUSE PRICE INDEXES - Melbourne



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 House Price Indexes, Melbourne and Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities (file size 27kB).

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Building Approvals

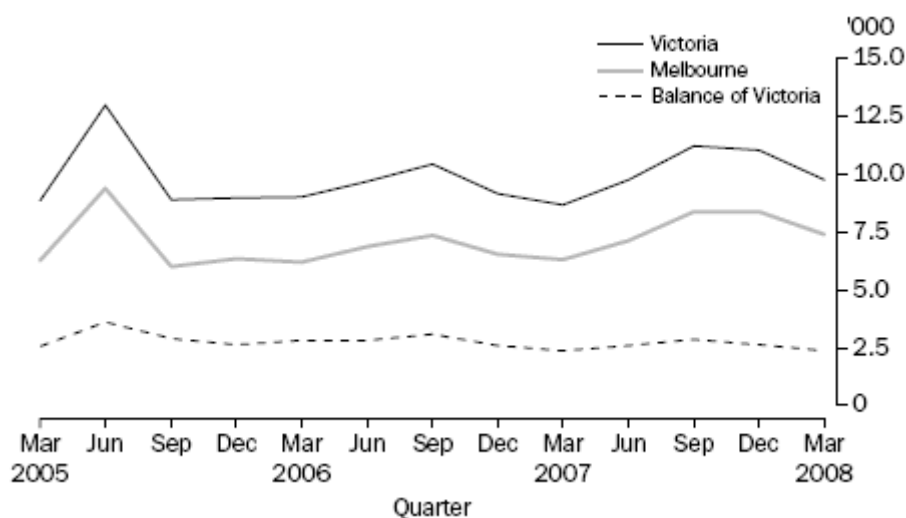
[Contents >> Construction >> Building Approvals](#)

BUILDING APPROVALS

In March quarter 2008, the total number of new dwelling units approved in Victoria was 9,754. This was 1,264 fewer than in the December quarter 2007, or a decrease of 11.5%. Over the same period, the number of new dwelling units approved in Melbourne MSR decreased by 11.9%, while in the Balance of Victoria MSR the decrease was 10.2%. In the

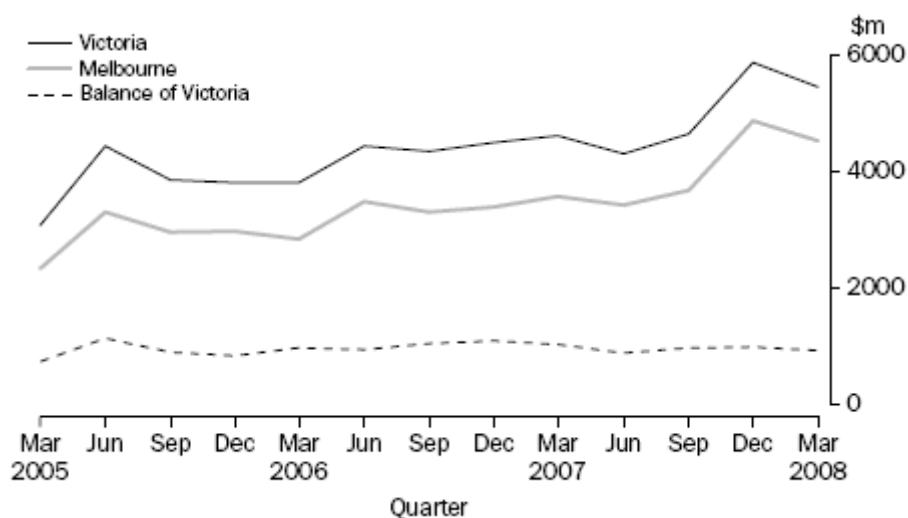
Melbourne MSR, the highest number of new dwelling units approved in the March 2008 quarter were in Wyndham (764), Casey (520) and Whittlesea (502). For the year ended March quarter 2008, the biggest increases in the number of new dwelling unit approvals were in Moreland (230), Melton (176) and Whittlesea (156) and the largest decreases were in Melbourne (-179), Casey (-95) and Frankston (-68).

DWELLING UNIT APPROVALS



The value of new building approvals for Victoria was \$409.6 million lower in March quarter 2008 than in the previous quarter.

VALUE OF ALL BUILDING APPROVALS



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Building Approvals, By Local Government Area (file size 45kB).

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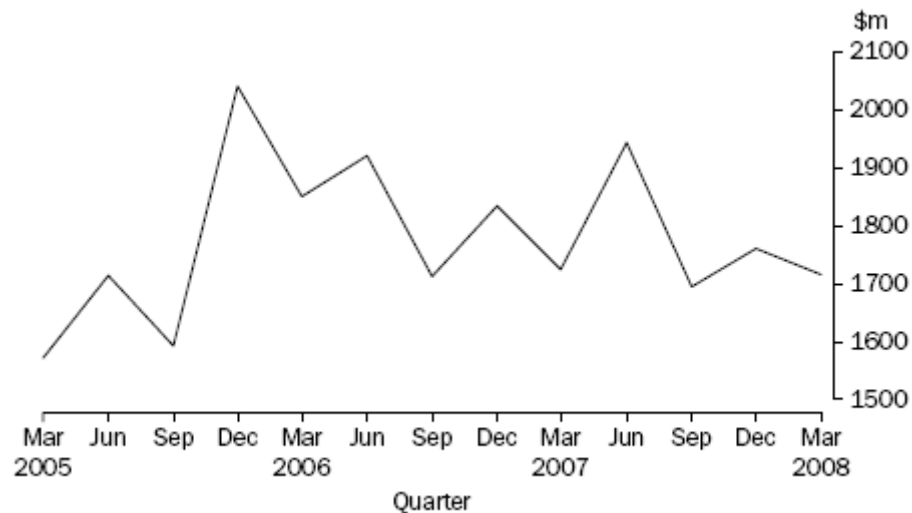
Engineering Construction Activity

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

For Victoria, the total value of engineering work done during March quarter 2008 was \$1,716.7m, a decrease of 2.5% from December quarter 2007. The overall decrease in March quarter 2008 was mainly due to a decrease in the value of work done for Roads, highways and subdivisions (\$99.6m).

In contrast, the value of work done increased for Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines (\$24.0m), Recreation and other (\$16.6m), Bridges, railways and harbours (\$10.5m), Telecommunications (\$6.2m) and Heavy industry (\$0.7m).

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, Value of Work Done



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Engineering Construction Activity, By Type, Victoria: Original (file size 42kB).

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Tourism

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TOURISM

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Tourist Accommodation

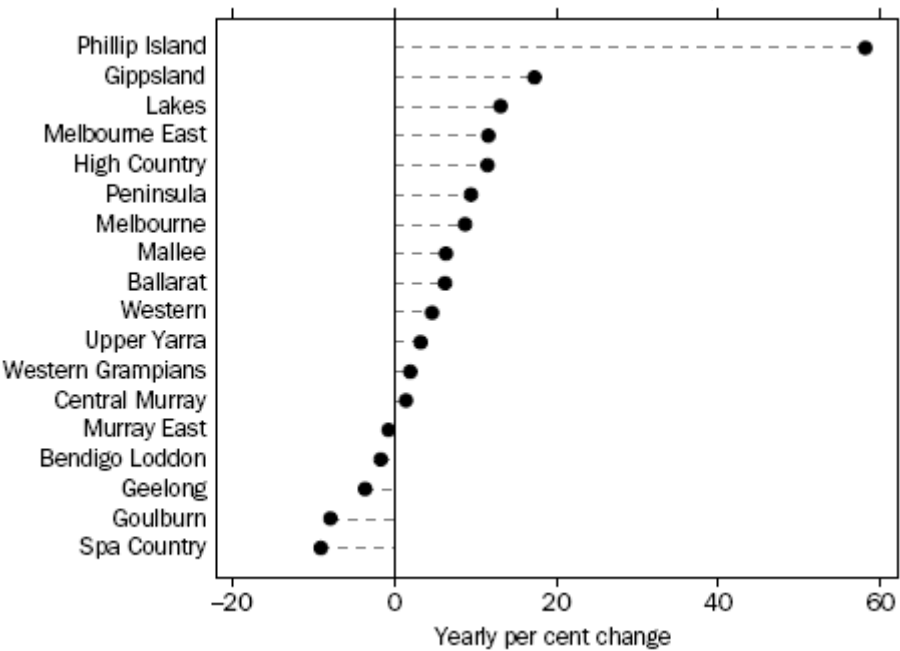
[Contents >> Tourism >> Tourist Accommodation](#)

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

In March quarter 2008, total takings from tourist accommodation in Victoria were \$378.5m, an increase of 8.2% from March quarter 2007. The Melbourne Tourism Region accounted for the majority of Victoria's accommodation takings (78.8%).

The highest growth in accommodation takings between March quarter 2007 and March quarter 2008 occurred in the Tourism Regions of Phillip Island (58.1%), Gippsland (17.3%) and Lakes (13.1%). The Tourism Regions which experienced the largest decline in accommodation takings were Spa Country (-9.1%), Goulburn (-7.9%) and Geelong (-3.6%).

TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION - March Quarter 2008



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Tourist Accommodation, By Tourism Region - March Quarter 2008 (file size 26kB).

Agriculture

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AGRICULTURE

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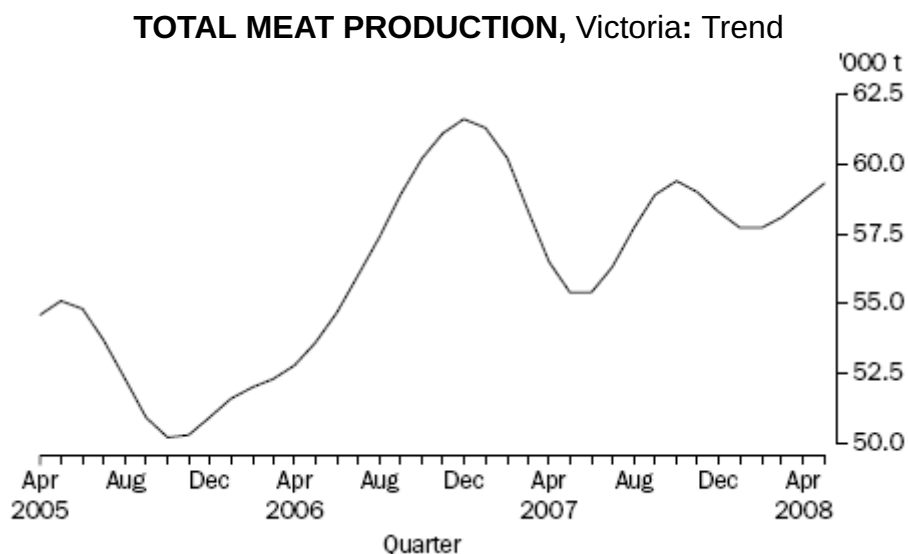
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Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Between May 2007 and May 2008, the trend estimate for total meat production for Victoria increased by 7.0% from 55,401.1 tonnes to 59,269.8 tonnes. The production of Mutton, Beef and Veal increased by 21.3%, 12.0% and 11.8% respectively, while falls in production were recorded for Pig meat (-16.8%) and Lamb (-0.2%) over the period.



The trend estimate for livestock slaughtering increased by 29,200 (2.3%) between May 2007 and May 2008. Sheep and Cattle slaughtering increased by 13.5% and 6.9% respectively, while Pig and Lamb slaughtering decreased by 17.3% and 0.4% respectively over this period.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production, Victoria: All Series (file size 26kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Other Agricultural Production (file size 23kB).

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TRADE

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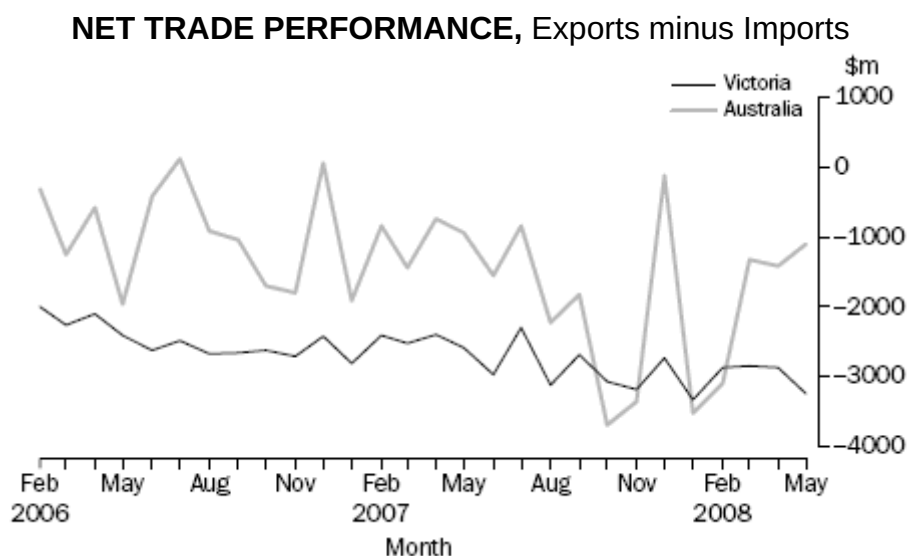
Balance of Trade

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BALANCE OF TRADE

In May 2008, the value of Victoria's exports was \$1,848m. This was 2.6% higher than in May 2007. Over the same period, the value of imports rose by \$715m or 16.3% and Victoria's overall net trade position declined by \$668m or 25.8%. On average, Victoria recorded a monthly trade deficit of \$2,938.9m in merchandise trade for the year ended in May 2008.

At the national level, both imports and exports (including re-exports) were 16.5% higher in May 2008 than in May 2007.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Balance of International Merchandise Trade (file size 32kB).

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Trade by Commodity

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TRADE BY COMMODITY

For the year ended May 2008, Victoria's merchandise exports rose by \$266m (1.3%) in comparison to the year ended May 2007. Rises in exports were recorded mainly for Combined confidential items of trade (\$495m), Machinery and transport equipment (\$420m), and Food and live animals (\$103m). The largest decrease in exports, over this period, came from Beverages and tobacco (-\$383m), Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (-\$330m) and Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (-\$149).

Over the same period, the total value of Victoria's merchandise imports increased by \$4,610m (9.0%), with increases recorded in all of the import commodity categories. The largest increases were recorded in Machinery and transport equipment (\$1,720m), Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$1,395m) and Food and live animals (\$402m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 International Merchandise Trade, By Commodity (file size 27kB).

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Major Trading Partners

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MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

For the year ended May 2008, Victoria's trade deficit was -\$35,265m. Victoria recorded its highest trade deficit with China (-\$7,140m) followed by USA (-\$5,374m) and Japan (-\$3,513m). For the same period, Victoria recorded its highest trading surplus with Saudi Arabia (\$960m) followed by Papua New Guinea (\$136m) and Hong Kong (\$85m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 International Merchandise Trade, By Major Trading Partners (file size 24kB)

Environment

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ENVIRONMENT

This section contains the following subsection :

[Air quality](#)

[Water resources](#)

Air quality

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AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality Index compiled by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority measures the concentration of various pollutants relative to the levels at which they may cause harm. The index is available for four areas in the Port Phillip Region (East, West, City and Geelong) and the Latrobe Valley.

The Visibility Pollutant Index is an indicator of visibility reduction. Visibility incidents are generally higher during cooler months of Autumn and Winter (from May to September), whereas ozone values are generally higher during warmer months of Spring and Summer (from November to February).

[View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Air Quality \(file size 78kB\).](#)

Water resources

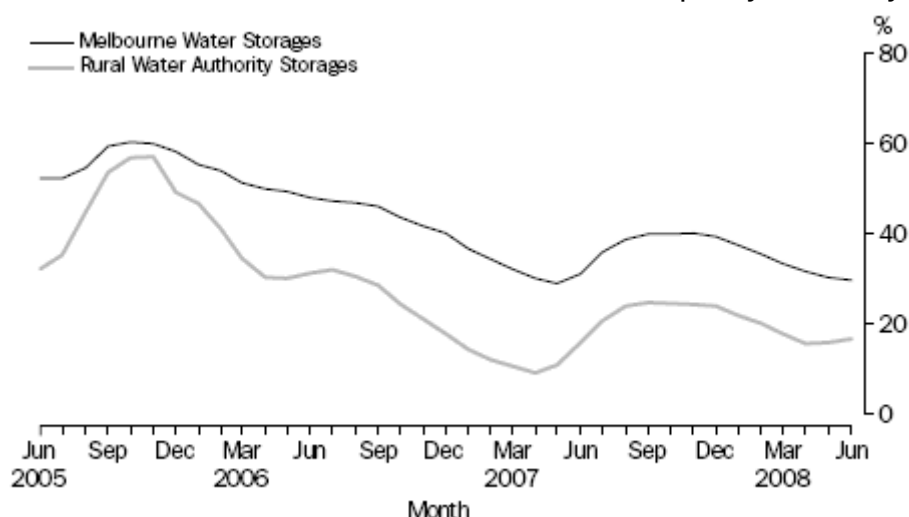
[Contents >> Environment >> Water resources](#)

WATER RESOURCES

At the end of June 2008, Victoria's water storages were at 16.7% of capacity. This was 0.6% higher than the level in May 2008, and 0.9% higher than in June 2007.

Melbourne's water storage levels at the end of June 2008 were at 29.5% of capacity. This was 0.6% lower than in May 2008 and 1.4% lower than in June 2007. Rural water storages held 16.4% of their capacity at the end of June 2008, 0.6% higher than in May 2008, and 0.8% higher than the level in June 2007.

WATER STORAGE VOLUMES, Percent of Capacity - Monthly



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Water Storages, By River Basin, Victoria (file size 24kB).

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Adult Literacy and Life Skills (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE: ADULT LITERACY AND LIFE SKILLS

- Introduction
- History
- Conduct of survey
- Definitions
- Overall findings
- Document literacy
- Correlations with other domains
- Numeracy
- Literacy and GDP
- Summary
- Further information

INTRODUCTION

This article provides a brief history of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey followed by an examination of some of the findings from the 2006 survey. Data from this survey inform one

of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) indicative progress measures, the 'literacy and numeracy achievement of working people in national and international testing'.

The Victorian Government acknowledges that 'developing strong literacy and numeracy skills in primary school is the basis for advanced education and training', and one of the Victorian Government's Growing Victoria Together (GVT) goals is 'High quality education and training for lifelong learning'.

This article therefore provides information on how well Victorian adults, a large proportion of whom have been (or are being) educated in Victoria, can apply the literacy skills they have learned.

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HISTORY

In the late 1980s, the US government enlisted two mathematics graduates to devise a way of conducting large-scale testing of skills, which could be achieved with a small number of respondents in a relatively short period of time. The two graduates used a combination of mathematical theory and survey techniques to come up with valid and reliable skill measures. This method is now used as the basis of many literacy testing regimes: one well-known example being PISA: the Programme of International Student Assessments.

In the early 1990s, the US government asked the Canadian statistics agency and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to be involved in survey development. Mainly through the efforts of a team of researchers from Statistics Canada, the survey instrument that was developed was able to compare adult skills in a range of countries around the world. So the first International Adult Literacy Survey (or IALS) was born. IALS was conducted between 1994 and 1998 in over 20 countries around the world. This survey was run in Australia in 1996 as the ABS Survey of Aspects of Literacy.

A second adult literacy survey of this kind has now been conducted in a range of countries including Australia. As with IALS, the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (known in Australia as 'ALLS') has again been coordinated by Statistics Canada and the OECD. Countries that participated included the United States, Canada, Norway, Bermuda, Mexico, Switzerland, Italy, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Hungary and South Korea.

International literacy surveys and studies (footnote 1) of these data provide a number of key findings:

- While skill gains and losses happen very slowly across time, there is evidence that even a small change can have an effect on human capital and productivity growth.
- People lose skills in response to age, working patterns and other circumstances throughout their lives.
- Interventions are at their most effective, not for those with high skill levels, but for those at the lower end of the distribution.

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CONDUCT OF SURVEY

Australia participated in the survey between July 2006 and January 2007. In Australia, ALLS was run with funding from the former Department of Education, Science and Training, with

some additional funding support from the former Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The ALLS involved a random selection of adults aged between 15 and 74 years in the household. The sample size of 8,988 people across Australia included 1,724 people from Victoria. The survey was done by personal interview and involved, first, a background questionnaire and then an objective skills test.

Literacy was assessed in English, as the official language of Australia. It did not assess migrants' skills in their own language, although some information on proficiency in other languages was collected.

Experts in the literacy field made some minor adaptations to survey questions and exercises to ensure that concepts were understood in Australia in the same way as in other countries (for example that prices on goods made sense; use of 'petrol' instead of 'gas').

The scores from the testing procedure were compiled and standardised by the Educational Testing Service in the United States.

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DEFINITIONS

The ALLS was designed to identify and objectively measure literacy which can be linked to the social and economic characteristics of people both across and within countries. The ALLS definition of literacy is 'Using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve goals and develop knowledge and potential'. So the ALLS was not only about whether people could read or write - it was about how people understood and applied the knowledge they took in from printed media.

The ALLS provides information on knowledge and skills in the following four domains:

- Prose literacy: The knowledge and skills needed to understand and use various kinds of information from text including editorials, news stories, brochures and instruction manuals.
- Document literacy: The knowledge and skills required to locate and use information contained in various formats including job applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables and charts.
- Numeracy: The knowledge and skills required to effectively manage and respond to the mathematical demands of diverse situations.
- Problem solving: Goal-directed thinking and action in situations for which no routine solution is available.

As a by-product of the above four domains, a fifth domain measuring health literacy was produced. The Department of Health and Ageing provided funding to add this component to the results. Health Literacy is defined as the knowledge and skills required to understand and use information relating to health issues such as drugs and alcohol, disease prevention and treatment, safety and accident prevention, first aid, emergencies, and staying healthy.

These domains were scored on a continuous scale of 0 to 500, and grouped into Levels 1 to 5. Level 1 indicates the lowest score and 5 (or 4 for problem solving) is the highest.

- Level 1: People with very poor skills, where the individual may, for example, be unable to determine the correct amount of medicine to give a child from information printed on

the package. (People who did not correctly complete at least three of the six relatively simple screening tasks were not asked to attempt the more difficult tasks of the full test. These respondents were assessed with skill level 1 for each domain.)

- Level 2: People can only deal with material that is simple, clearly laid out, and in which the tasks involved are not too complex. It denotes a weak level of skill, but more hidden than Level 1. It identifies people who can read, but test poorly. They may have developed coping skills to manage everyday literacy demands but their low level of proficiency makes it difficult for them to face novel demands, such as learning new job skills.
- Level 3: The minimum skills level suitable for coping with the demands of everyday life and work in a complex, advanced society. It denotes roughly the skill level required for successful secondary school completion and tertiary entry. Like higher levels, it requires the ability to integrate several sources of information and solve more complex problems.
- Levels 4 & 5: People demonstrate a command of higher-order information-processing skills.

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OVERALL FINDINGS

In the 2006 ALLS, between 49% and 71% of adults in Victoria had poor or very poor skills across one or more of the five skill domains of prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy, problem-solving and health literacy. This means they did not attain skill Level 3, the level regarded by most experts as a suitable minimum for coping with the increasing and complex demands of modern life and work.

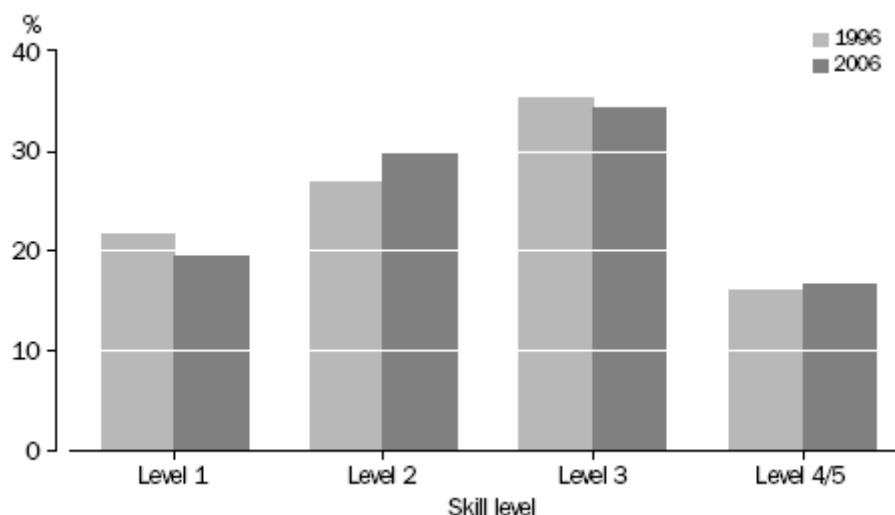
DOCUMENT LITERACY

Level 1 tasks tended to require the respondent either to locate a piece of information based on a literal match or to enter information from personal knowledge onto a document. Little, if any, distracting information was present.

Level 2 tasks were more varied than those in Level 1. Some required the respondents to match a single piece of information; however, several distractors may have been present, or the match may have required low-level inferences. Tasks in this level may also have asked the respondent to cycle through information in a document or to integrate information from various parts of a document.

In the document literacy domain, approximately 49% of Victorians aged 15 to 74 years had scores at Level 1 or 2, a further 34% at Level 3 and 17% at Level 4/5. This was similar to results for Australia with comparative scores on the same scale of 47% at Level 1 or 2, 35% at Level 3 and 18% at Level 4/5.

DOCUMENT LITERACY, Victoria



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Have document literacy skills improved in 2006?

Two skill domains - prose literacy and document literacy - were tested in 2006 in the same way as in 1996, and therefore data from the two surveys can be directly compared.

In the document literacy domain, the proportion of Victorians at Level 1 decreased from 22% in 1996 to 20% in 2006. During the same period, the proportion of those at Level 2 increased from 27% to 30%. The proportions of Victorians attaining Level 3 (35% to 34%) and Level 4/5 (16% to 17%) changed marginally. None of these changes, however, is statistically significant.

The proportion of Australians at Level 1 in the document literacy domain decreased from 20% in 1996 to 18% in 2006. This was a statistically significant change. In the same period, the proportion of those at Level 2 remained stable, those at Level 3 did not change (36%) and the change at Level 4/5 was not statistically significant.

Interstate

Victoria had the second highest proportion of people scoring at Level 1 (20%) - only Tasmania was higher (21%) - and the second lowest proportion of people registering Level 3 scores (34%), as shown in the table below. However differences between states and territories averages were not statistically significant.

Document Literacy Scale, By State, Territory and Australia - 2006

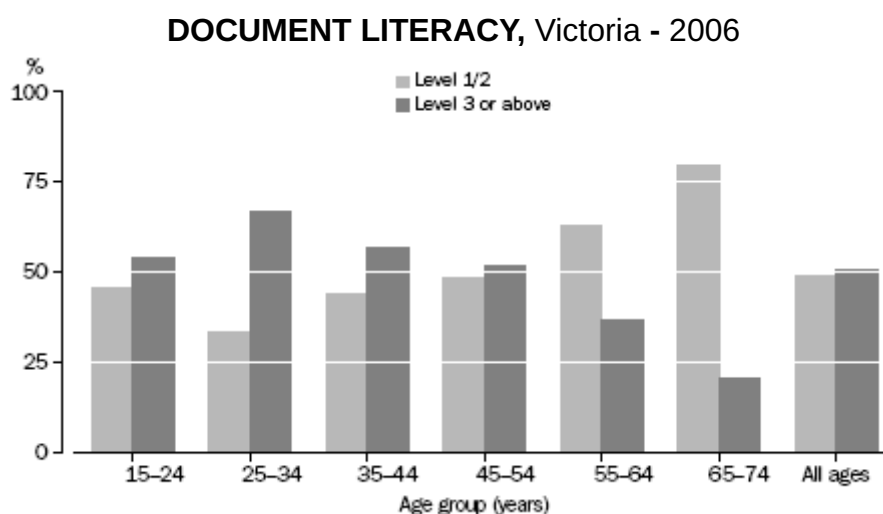
State or Territory	Level 1 %	Level 2 %	Level 3 %	Level 4/5 %
New South Wales	18.9	27.6	35.1	18.3
Victoria	19.5	29.7	34.3	16.6
Queensland	16.2	30.4	36.6	16.8
South Australia	17.5	28.4	35.2	18.9
Western Australia	15.1	29.0	36.9	18.9
Tasmania	21.4	29.3	34.1	15.2
Northern Territory	18.8	27.7	38.6	15.0
Australian Capital Territory	11.5	20.4	42.2	25.8
Australia	18.0	28.8	35.5	17.7

Sex

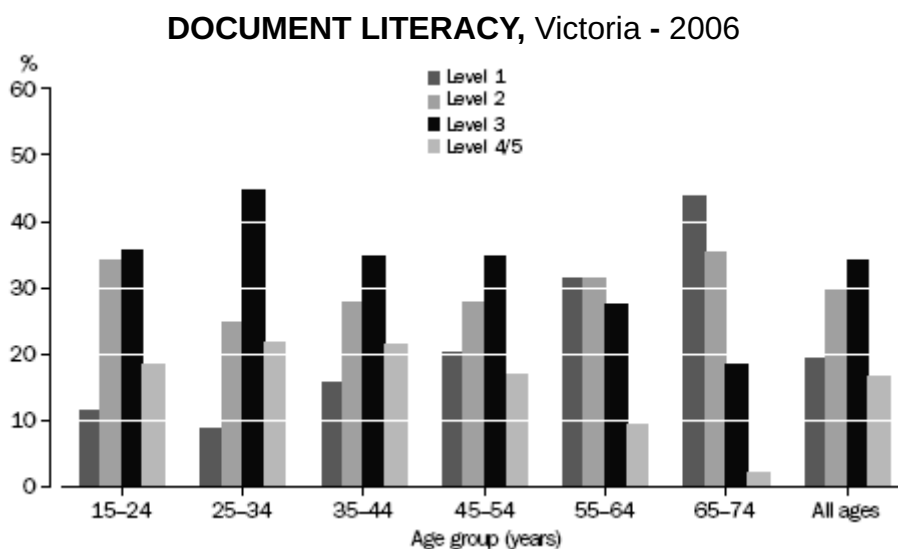
In 2006, a higher proportion of Victorian males (53.6%) compared to females (48.1%) attained scores of Level 3 or above.

Age

Literacy levels tended to decrease with age, with higher proportions of people in the older age groups in Victoria attaining skill scores lower than Level 3. The exception to this pattern was the 15 to 24 years age group, which had a greater proportion of people with skills below Level 3 than the 25 to 34 year and 35 to 44 year age groups (see the following graph).



The following graph gives more detail of Victorians' skill levels by age group.



Qualification

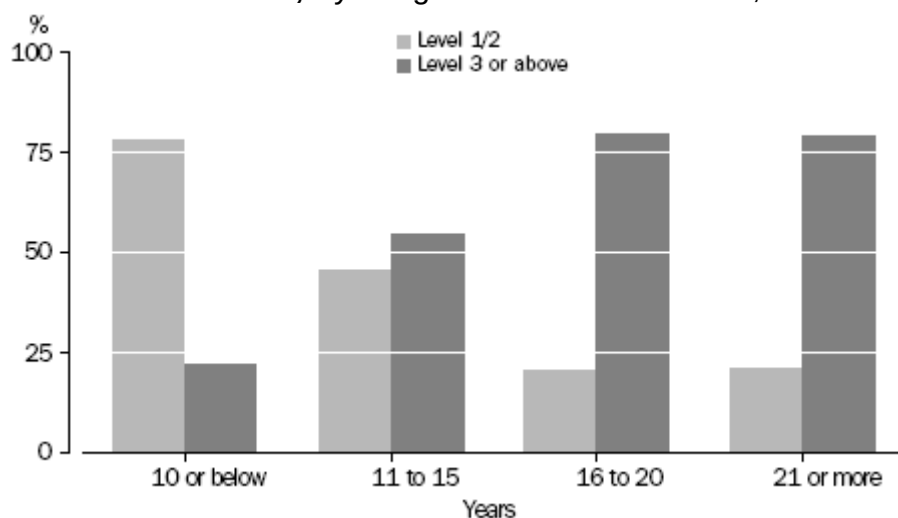
A strong association existed between educational attainment and achieved literacy levels.

People who had completed a non-school qualification generally had higher literacy scores. On the document literacy scale, 62% of persons who had completed a non-school qualification achieved Level 3 or above, compared to 38% for those who had not completed such a qualification.

Years of formal education

Victorians who had completed 16 to 20 years of formal education had the highest proportion of scores at Level 3 or above (80%), closely followed by those with 21 or more years (79%). In contrast, those with 10 or fewer years of formal education had the lowest proportion of scores at Level 3 or above (22%).

DOCUMENT LITERACY, By Length of Formal Education, Victoria - 2006



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Participation in learning

There were approximately 3.4 million Victorians who reported participating in learning during the 12 months prior to the survey. Learning includes formal learning which is participation in an educational program to obtain a formal qualification. In addition, learning includes informal learning (but not as part of a course) which involves activities such as visiting trade fairs, professional conferences or expos, attending lectures, seminars or workshops, reading manuals or reference books or using computers or the Internet.

Looking at formal learning, in terms of document literacy, of the 1.7 million Victorians who undertook a course leading to an educational qualification during the previous 12 months, 68% achieved scores at Level 3 or above. In contrast, of the people who did not undertake such a course in the previous 12 months, 37% achieved scores at Level 3 or above.

Of those Victorians who had participated in learning (formal and/or informal) during the 12 months prior to the survey, 55% achieved scores at Level 3 or above, while only 14% of those who had not participated in any form of learning during the 12 months prior to the survey achieved scores at Level 3 or above.

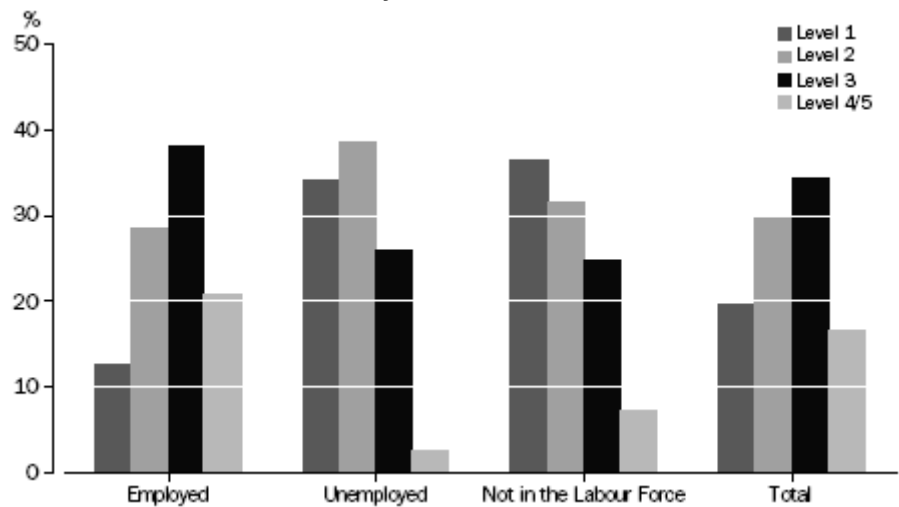
Labour force status

Those employed (including both full time and part time employees) had the highest

proportion with scores of Level 3 or above (59%).

The unemployed had the highest proportion assessed at Level 1 or 2 (73%), followed by those not in the labour force (68%).

DOCUMENT LITERACY, By Labour Force Status, Victoria - 2006

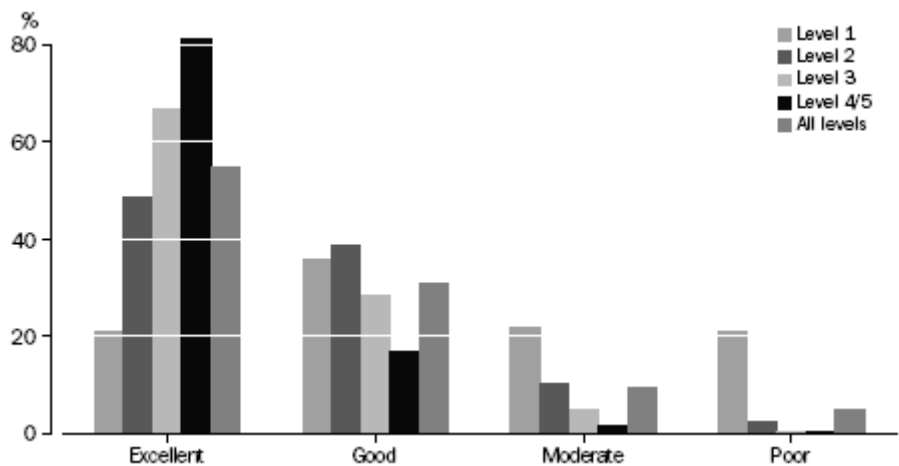


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Self-rated English reading skills

Over half of the Victorians surveyed (55%) rated their English reading skills for their daily needs as excellent. Of this subgroup, 66% achieved a literacy score at Level 3 or above. Only 5% of Victorians responding to the survey rated their English reading skills for the needs of daily life as poor compared with 19% who achieved a literacy score at Level 1. Of those who rated their English reading skills for the needs of daily life as poor, 82% achieved scores at Level 1.

SELF ASSESSED ENGLISH READING SKILLS, By Document Literacy Level, Victoria - 2006



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CORRELATIONS WITH OTHER DOMAINS

The table below shows the correlations between the various domains of literacy for people in Victoria.

Correlations Between Literacy Domains, Victoria - 2006

	Prose	Document	Numeracy	Problem solving
Prose	1	0.97	0.92	0.95
Document	0.97	1	0.94	0.95
Numeracy	0.92	0.94	1	0.91
Problem solving	0.95	0.95	0.91	1

Prose, document, and problem solving scores are very highly correlated (correlation coefficients in excess of 0.95) with each other. In addition, numeracy and the other three literacy domains are highly correlated (correlation coefficients in excess of 0.91). A person whose literacy is high/low in one literacy domain is likely to have high/low skills in other domains as well.

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NUMERACY

Numeracy relates to the skills required to effectively manage and respond to the mathematical demands of diverse situations. To assess numeracy, individuals had to complete tasks that ranged from simple arithmetic operations through to complex representations and abstract and formal mathematical and statistical ideas.

Level 1 tasks required the respondent to show an understanding of basic numerical ideas by completing simple tasks in concrete, familiar contexts where the mathematical content was explicit with little text. Tasks consisted of simple, one-step operations such as counting, sorting dates, performing simple arithmetic operations or understanding common and simple percents such as 50%.

Level 2 tasks were fairly simple and related to identifying and understanding basic mathematical concepts embedded in a range of familiar contexts where the mathematical content was quite explicit and visual with few distractors. Tasks tended to include one-step or two-step processes and estimations involving whole numbers, benchmark percents and fractions, interpreting simple graphical or spatial representations, and performing simple measurements.

Level 3 tasks required a person to demonstrate an understanding of mathematical information represented in a range of different forms such as in numbers, symbols, maps, graphs, texts, and drawings. Skills required involve number and spatial sense, knowledge of mathematical patterns and relationships and the ability to interpret proportions, data and statistics embedded in relatively simple texts where there may have been distractors. The tasks commonly involved undertaking a number of processes to solve problems.

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States and Territories

For numeracy, all of the states and territories, except for the ACT (37%), had more than 50% of people with scores at Level 1 or Level 2.

As shown in the following table, Victoria had the second highest proportion of people scoring at Level 1 (24%) - only Tasmania was higher (26%). In addition, Victoria had the lowest proportion of people scoring at Level 3 (30%). Differences between states and territories

were not found to be statistically significant.

Numeracy, By State, Territory and Australia - 2006

State or Territory	Level 1 %	Level 2 %	Level 3 %	Level 4/5 %
New South Wales	23.2	29.4	30.4	17.1
Victoria	23.5	30.9	30.3	15.3
Queensland	19.5	32.6	32.8	15.0
South Australia	21.3	29.9	31.9	16.9
Western Australia	19.7	31.6	32.6	16.2
Tasmania	26.2	30.0	30.8	13.1
Northern Territory	23.2	32.0	31.7	13.2
Australian Capital Territory	14.3	22.8	37.8	25.1
Australia	22.0	30.5	31.3	16.1

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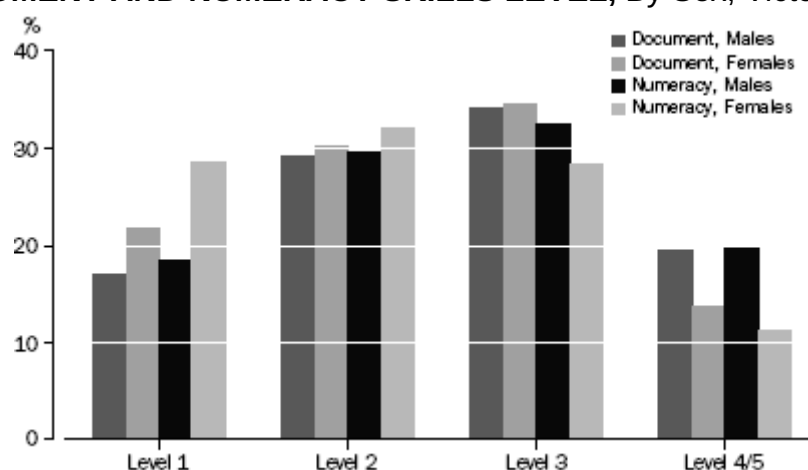
Change since 1996

The numeracy domain as measured by the ALLS (2006) goes beyond the quantitative literacy measure used in IALS (1996): as a result, it is not directly comparable with IALS.

Sex and age

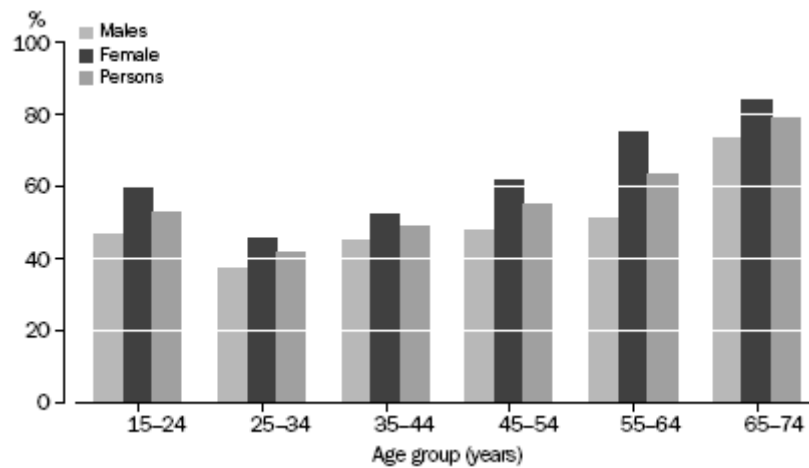
Australia, like other countries such as Bermuda and Canada, displays more gender differentiation with numeracy than the other domains. This is highlighted in the graph below where the gender differences for Victoria are greater, across all levels, for numeracy than for document literacy.

DOCUMENT AND NUMERACY SKILLS LEVEL, By Sex, Victoria - 2006



In the numeracy domain, a higher proportion of Victorian females scored below Level 3 (61%) than Victorian males (48%). The corresponding proportions for Australia were 58% and 48% respectively. The gender difference existed across all age groups for both Victoria (see the graph below) and Australia.

NUMERACY LEVELS 1 AND 2, Victoria - 2006



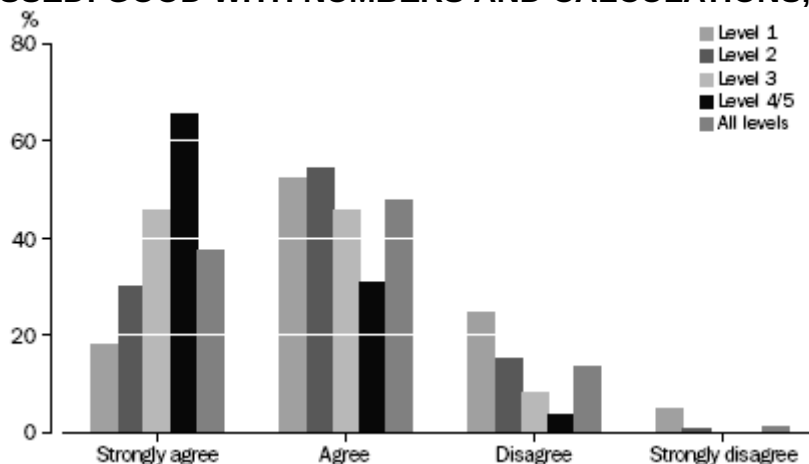
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Numeracy skill levels decreased with age, apart from the skills of the 15-24 year age group which were at lower levels than those of both the 25-34 and 35-44 year age groups.

Self-assessed skills

It is interesting to note the differences between self-assessments of numeracy skills and skill levels found in the survey. When asked whether they were good with numbers and calculations, 52% of Victorians with Level 1 numeracy skills agreed and 18% strongly agreed. For Victorians with Level 2 skills, 54% agreed and 30% strongly agreed (see the following graph).

SELF ASSESSED: GOOD WITH NUMBERS AND CALCULATIONS, Victoria - 2006



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LITERACY AND GDP

A fairly well-known study using IALS results (footnote 2) found that even a very small upward movement in literacy scores is highly correlated with a significant rise in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). An increase of 1% in a country's literacy scores relative to the international average was associated with a 1.5% rise in GDP per capita.

The same study highlights that the increase in literacy rate has the most impact on GDP when movements are realised at the bottom end of the literacy scale (that is, for those under Level 3).

SUMMARY

Some of the main points for Victoria are:

- There was no statistically significant change in Victorians' document literacy skills between 1996 and 2006.
- Victorians' perceptions of their skill levels differed from the skill levels achieved in tests, with the tendency being to overestimate skill levels.
- Literacy and numeracy skills decreased with age.
- Victorian males scored better across both literacy and numeracy tests than females, with a greater differentiation in numeracy skills.
- Length of formal education had a bearing on literacy skills levels. Victorians who had completed 16 to 20 years of formal education had the highest proportion of scores at Level 3 or above (80%), while those who had completed less than 10 years formal education had the lowest proportion of scores at Level 3 or above (22%).

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on ALLS in Australia, see the ABS website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. Material includes:

- Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0);
- Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Australia: User Guide, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.002); and
- Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey: State and Territory Tables, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.55.004).

For more international information see:

- The ALLS interactive website <<http://litdata.ets.org/ialdata/search.asp>>.
- The New Zealand Ministry of Education website, <<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz>>, and follow links to Publications and Assessment.
- Desjardins, R et al., **Learning a Living: First Results of the Adult Literacy and Life Skills survey**, 2003, Statistics Canada website, <<http://www.statcan.ca>>, Catalogue no. 89-603-XWE.
- Coulombe, S et al., **Literacy scores, human capital and growth across fourteen OECD countries**, 2004, Statistics Canada website, <<http://www.statcan.ca>>, Catalogue no. 89-552-MIE2004011.
- Murray, S et al., **Measuring Adult Literacy and Life Skills: New Frameworks for Assessment**, 2005, Statistics Canada website, <<http://www.statcan.ca>>, Catalogue no. 89-552-MIE2005013.
- OECD PISA website, <<http://www.pisa.oecd.org>>

1 For more details, refer to the international information references included at the end of this feature article. <back

2 Coulombe, S et al., **Literacy scores, human capital and growth across fourteen OECD**

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Chain volume measures

Annually-reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to the current price values in a chosen reference year (i.e. the year when the quarterly chain volume measures sum to the current price annual values). Chain Laspeyres volume measures are compiled by linking together (compounding) movements in volumes, calculated using the average prices of the previous financial year, and applying the compounded movements to the current price estimates of the reference year. Quarterly chain volume estimates are benchmarked to annual chain volume estimates, so that the quarterly estimates for a financial year sum to the corresponding annual estimate.

Generally, chain volume measures are not additive. In other words, component chain volume measures do not sum to a total in the way original current price components do. In order to minimise the impact of this property, the ABS uses the latest base year as the reference year. By adopting this approach, additivity exists for the quarters following the reference year and non-additivity is relatively small for the quarters in the reference year and the quarters immediately preceding it. The latest base year and the reference year will be advanced one year with the release of the June quarter data each year. A change in reference year changes levels but not growth rates, although some revision to recent growth rates can be expected because of the introduction of a more recent base year (and revisions to the current price estimates underlying the chain volume measures).

Duration of unemployment

The elapsed period to the end of the reference week since a person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is the shorter. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

Employed

Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers);
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers);
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement;

- on strike or locked out;
- on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job;
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Part-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Particles as PM₁₀

Particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometres or less.

Seasonal adjustment

A means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variations from economic time series so that the effects of other influences are obvious. Seasonal variations are the systematic (though not necessarily regular) intra-year movements of economic time series. These are often the result of non-economic phenomena, such as climatic changes and regular religious festivals (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

State final demand

Conceptually identical to domestic final demand at the national level (the sum of private and government final consumption expenditure and private and public gross fixed capital formation).

National estimates are based on the concepts and conventions embodied in the System of National Accounts, 1993, but for regional (including state) estimates there is no separate international standard. Although national concepts are generally applicable to state accounts, there remain several conceptual and measurement issues that either do not apply or are insignificant nationally. Most of the problems arise in the measurement of gross state product for the transport and storage, communication services, and finance and insurance industries, where production often takes place across state borders. In these cases, a number of conceptual views can be applied to the allocation of value added by state. For more information, see chapter 28 of **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0).

Trend estimates

Smoothing seasonally adjusted series produces a measure of trend by removing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson weighted moving average to the respective seasonally adjusted series. Readers are reminded that trend estimates are subject to revision as subsequent months' data become available.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and:
 - were available for work in the reference week;

- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this product:

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ALLS	Australian Adult Literacy Survey
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
Aust.	Australia
B	Borough
BoV	Balance of Victoria
C	City
CPI	consumer price index
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ERP	estimated resident population
FT	full-time
ha	hectare
kL	kilolitre
LGA	local government area
ML	megalitre
MSD	Melbourne Statistical Division
MSR	major statistical region
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
qtr	quarter
Qld	Queensland
RC	Rural City
S	Shire
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SEPP	State Environment Protection Policy
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

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